

National Security Education Program 4800 Mark Center Suite 08F09-02 Alexandria, VA 22350 Phone 703.696.1991 www.nsep.gov

Press Release

National Security Education Program Announces 10th Annual Boren Alumni Award Winners

Alexandria, Virginia, September 8, 2016: The National Security Education Program (NSEP) is pleased to announce its 10th annual NSEP Boren Alumni Award winners. Roger Polack of Racine, WI has been named the 2016 *Howard Baker, Jr. Award* winner, and David Hoffman of Solana Beach, CA has been named the 2016 *Sol Linowitz Award* winner.

NSEP has awarded more than 5,800 scholarships and fellowships to U.S. students to study languages and cultures of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin American, and the Middle East. NSEP's award recipients, Boren Scholars and Fellows, commit to pursuing national security-related public service following their experiences overseas; accordingly, it pays tribute each year to the extraordinary contributions made by one Boren Scholar and one Boren Fellow to our nation's defenses.

The Howard Baker, Jr. Award was named in honor of Senator Howard Baker and is awarded annually to a former undergraduate Boren Scholar. Senator Baker had an outstanding career in public service, serving as a three-term U.S. Senator from Tennessee. While in the United States Senate, he was Majority Leader for four years. After retiring from the Senate, Senator Baker returned to public service as President Reagan's White House Chief of Staff and as Ambassador to Japan under President George W. Bush.

This year's Howard Baker, Jr. Award winner, Mr. Roger Polack, a 2005-2006 Boren Scholar from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, used the Boren Scholarship to study in Thailand and Burma, where he focused on insurgency and the regional narcotics trade while improving his Thai and Burmese language. Mr. Polack is currently a Senior Sanctions Policy Advisor in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Mr. Polack began his federal service with Treasury's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (OIA) in 2007, and has been with Treasury ever since. He spent his first two years with OIA as an intelligence analyst covering terrorist financing in Southeast Asia. In 2009, Mr. Polack began analyzing Taliban revenue from the narcotics trade in South Asia, and ultimately deployed to Afghanistan multiple times, first as an analyst and then as Deputy-Director of the Afghanistan Threat Finance Cell. For his service in Afghanistan, he received the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of



Staff Meritorious Civilian Service Award. After returning from Afghanistan, he switched focus to East Asian economic issues and ultimately joined Treasury's International Affairs, where he vetted international acquisitions of U.S. businesses for national security concerns as part of the Committee on



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Foreign Investment in the United States. He had a major role negotiating with China on investment initiatives during the 2015 U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue. Last year, Mr. Polack joined OFAC, where he focuses on Iran-related sanctions, in particular the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran. In this capacity he has written regulations, travelled to Europe to meet with Iranian counterparts, and explained sanctions to foreign banks, industry CEOs, and foreign government officials. In addition to his work at Treasury, Mr. Polack studies law part-time at Georgetown University Law Center and will earn his Juris Doctor with honors this December.

The Sol Linowitz Award was named in honor of Ambassador Sol Linowitz and is awarded to a former graduate Boren Fellow. Ambassador Linowitz was trained as a lawyer and became the General Counsel, and later Chairman of the Board of the Xerox Corporation. President Lyndon Johnson appointed Mr. Linowitz as Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1966. He later served as a conegotiator for the Panama Canal Treaties, and from 1979-1981 as President Carter's personal representative to the Middle East Peace Negotiations.



This year's Sol Linowitz Award winner, Mr. David Hoffman, a 1997 Boren Fellow, studied Azeri/Turkish in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Dr. Hoffman is a Foreign Service Officer with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He is currently based in the U.S. embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia where he serves as the Director of the Office of Democracy, Rights and Governance (DRG). He directs the strategic planning and implementation over all Agency programs in the DRG field. As a member of the USAID and embassy senior staff, Dr. Hoffman participates in senior management decisions regarding the USAID Mission to Indonesia, serves on inter-agency task forces at the embassy on Combating Violent Extremism (CVE), advises the Ambassador on anti-corruption issues. Within his technical field, Mr. Hoffman has been active in building the capacity of future generations of USAID DRG specialists. He has designed a number of training courses on topics ranging from elections observation to human rights protection to anti-corruption measures. Mr. Hoffman

previously served in U.S. diplomatic missions in Central Asia, Pakistan (Peshawar), and Afghanistan. In addition to Turkish, he speaks Russian, French, and Indonesian.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Mr. Daniel Feehan, will present Mr. Polack and Mr. Hoffman with their awards at the Boren Scholarship and Fellowship Federal Employment Seminar on Thursday, September 8, 2016. The awards ceremony will take place at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC.